

NEWS & CHAT 10 March 2022

The online service is live-streamed every week from Christ Church, on the Christ Church Facebook page.

Though no longer legally required by the government, masks must be worn for singing and are strongly recommended to be worn throughout Sunday Worship.

To continue to keep Covid-19 safe, please remember to:

- Wear a mask at all times (unless you have an exemption) **required when singing.**
- Sanitise hands when entering the building
- Keep at least 1m from people you are not in a 'bubble' or live with, including at groups meeting at church.

During services and other events, we will endeavour to keep the Church as warm as possible whilst maintaining good ventilation, so please dress accordingly.

Sunday 13 March 10.30am at The Bridgwater Drive Church, Communion, Rev. Celia Whitman
10.00am at Christ Church, All Age, Robert Dart

PLEASE NOTE: Naomi will be on annual leave 12 March to 3 April inclusive and Margaret will be away during the week beginning 14th March (attending her brother's funeral in Lincolnshire) so there will be no News and Chat next week.

TIPS & IDEAS

Tuesday 8 March was International Women's Day, so this week #64MillionArtists are celebrating that: Create your own painting or artwork inspired by them, their words and how they have impacted the world around them. Use any materials you have around you - paint, pastels, pencils or collage on paper or cardboard - anything goes. Below, 3 Nobel Peace Prize laureates to inspire you.

Malala Yousafzai



Malala was brought up in Pakistan. As a teenager she spoke up for every girl's right to be educated. For this she was shot by The Taliban. She came to England for surgery, recovered, studied hard and now has a degree from Oxford University. She campaigned, and is still campaigning, for all girls to go to school wherever they live. She received the Nobel Peace Prize in 2014 – aged 17.

Mother Teresa



During her lifetime Mother Teresa became famous as the Catholic nun who dedicated her life to caring for the destitute and dying in the slums of Calcutta (Kolkata) in India. In 1950 she founded 'The Missionaries of Charity', whose primary task was to love and care for people nobody was prepared to look after. The charity now helps people all over the world suffering from disease, poverty and natural and manmade disasters.

Rigoberta Menchu



Rigoberto is a remarkable woman from Guatemala. She belongs to an ancient ethnic group, Quiche (Mayan) Indians. She has spent her life campaigning for the rights of people from similar backgrounds all over the world. Despite the torture and murder of her father, mother and brother and threats to herself she has survived in hiding and has continued to campaign for equal rights and against the oppressive regime in Guatemala.

Christ Church, Rayleigh (CC) and the Bridgwater Drive Church (BDC)
NEWS FROM THE BRIDGWATER DRIVE CHURCH (Margaret)

Tuesday, 15th March Sorry, but there will be no chance to ‘Chat about Books’ this week as Margaret will be away. Maybe, for once, we could meet on the 4th Tuesday, 22nd March instead. Please let Margaret know if you think this is a good idea.

Sat., 7th May 11.00 – 2.00 May Fair – please let Val or Margaret know if you are able to help.

Ukraine emergency – we have sent £500 to The Red Cross to support them in their work to alleviate the suffering caused by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This is just one example of how The BDC uses our weekly offerings. Please continue to give generously to the work of our church in the local community and further afield. If you can donate directly by bank transfer that is the most convenient way for Jan to deal with donations but, as you saw last Sunday, we are now taking the offering during the service as we did before Covid forced us to change our habits.

We are also continuing to ask you to bring any change you have to fill the big jar at church. This is our **Lent Collection for Water Aid**.

Val’s Gardening Corner

March, and we have certainly made up for the lack of rain last month. I had to bail gallons of water to another water butt as they were overflowing.

The tête-à-têtes have been wonderful and, with the weather being so cold, they have held on for several weeks and survived the gales.

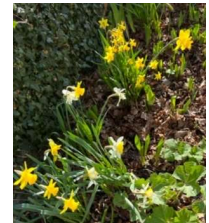
I have just started sowing but only keeping the trays etc in the kitchen as the nights have been very chilly.

I was given an amaryllis for Christmas. It produced 2 very strong stems, 6 beautiful flowers and only just died down.

Do not be tempted to buy summer bedding plants too soon as they will turn their toes up. Wait until mid-May, weather permitting. Plants are brought up in heated greenhouses.

Sunday, 27th March, the hour goes forward and summertime begins (possibly). The evenings will be lighter, but it will be darker in the mornings.

Happy Gardening,
Val



RESOURCES

New reflections for Lent from St Paul’s Cathedral, by Revd Susanna Snyder *Let it go*
<https://mailchi.mp/1643cc2cd4c2/coming-up-from-st-pauls-cathedral-8251238?e=e30a1f608a>

PRAYER CORNER

I invite all of you to set aside time daily to pray for our churches and members but also for the whole nation and world. We pray especially for the people of Ukraine.

This week’s prayer theme (prepared by Gwyneth). **Encouragement**. Hope engenders encouragement, encouragement births hope, the two inextricably linked. What can we give in Lent? A seeking for opportunities to be an encouragement, after all, that’s what God’s word exhorts us to be.

Particular prayer requests this week:

The BDC

Barbara: Cherry: Barry: Colin: Clive: Celia: Sandra: Tony: Gerry: Phil: Yvonne: Marlene’s daughter, Christine: Tom Hunter-Crump: Margaret’s friends, Jean and Peggy: Kate’s friend Frances and her husband, Bill: Darren’s son, Reuben, and all his family.

Christ Church

Audrey: Sheila S: Judy C.: Phil and Grace: Mark E & family: Phil and Penny: Frank: Eve J: Judy H.: Peter C.: Sandy, Mike and Anne: Della: Leeann, Judy C and George: Gwyneth, Jeff and Amy.

Donations for Ukraine

If you would like to make a financial contribution to support Ukraine, we recommend doing it via DEC (the Disasters Emergency Committee) and gift aiding it (if you are a tax-payer), to maximise your gift. <https://www.dec.org.uk/>

If you want to give practical help please bring donations to church on Sunday, Thursday or Saturday mornings
Large collections can be taken to **The Mega Centre in Rayleigh** (7, Brook Road, Rayleigh, SS6 7UT)

We currently do not need any more clothes, nappies or food (except as stated below),

Currently these items are needed:



Pray for Ukraine

Lord of all people and all nations,
We lift before you the people of Ukraine
and the people of Russia,
Each girl and boy, each woman and man
living in fear of what tomorrow might bring,
We long for a time you spoke of through
your prophet Isaiah,
When weapons of war would be beaten
into ploughshares,
When nation will no longer lift up sword
against nation,
We cry out to you for peace.



A Prayer for Ukraine

God of peace and justice,
we pray for the people of Ukraine today.
We pray for peace and the laying down of weapons.
We pray for all those who fear for tomorrow,
that your Spirit of comfort would draw near to them.
We pray for those with power over war or peace,
for wisdom, discernment and compassion
to guide their decisions.
Above all, we pray for all your precious children, at risk and in fear,
that you would hold and protect them.
We pray in the name of Jesus, the Prince of Peace.
Amen.

Archbishop Justin Welby
Archbishop Stephen Cottrell

